

DOCTOR
STRANGE
12¢ 181
IND. JULY

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

DR. STRANGE

IF A WORLD SHOULD DIE. I



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



DR STRANGE!

NONE BUT *YOU* BEHOLD
THE FACE OF NIGHTMARE
IN THE SINISTER,
SWIRLING SNOW!

NONE BUT
YOU MAY
HEAR MY
VOICE,
HEAVY
WITH
MENACE!

AND, NONE
BUT *YOU* CAN
HOPE TO SAVE
THE MILLING
MASSES FROM
TOTAL
ANNIHILATION!

I ACCEPT
YOUR
CHALLENGE,
EVIL ONE!

IN THE
TWINKLING
OF AN EYE--
IN THE
SPACE OF A
HEARTBEAT--

--I SHALL
ENTER
YOUR
DREADED
DREAM-
DIMENSION!!





NO, BRAZEN MORTAL...NOT JUST YET!
THERE IS NO SATISFACTION FOR ME IF YOU DIE TOO SWIFTLY!

YOU MUST WAIT FOR ONE OF YOUR EARTHLY HOURS-- A TIME-SPAN WHICH MEANS NOTHING TO SUCH AS NIGHTMARE!

BUT, FOR YOU, 'TIS TIME ENOUGH TO DWELL ON YOUR COMING DOOM...

AND TO TREMBLE IN CRINGING FEAR!

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS YOU COMMAND, LORD OF DARKNESS!

A MARVEL MYSTIC MASTERWORK BY:
STAN LEE ROY THOMAS GENE COLAN
EDITOR WRITER ARTIST
INKED BY TOM PALMER LETTERED BY JEAN IZZO



BUT KNOW YOU THIS--

THOUGH YOU SEND AGAINST ME ALL THE DREAM-HAUNTING HORDES OF YOUR NETHER REGION--

YEA, THOUGH I BE PITTED AGAINST YOU YOURSELF IN THE DEADLIEST OF MYSTIC COMBAT--

DR. STRANGE VOWS THAT HE SHALL YET EMERGE-- TRIUMPHANT!!



WHO'S THAT COSTUMED
KOOK WITH THE
FRIGHT-MASK?

HE'S JUST *STANDING*
THERE...TALKING TO
THIN AIR!

CALLED
HIMSELF...
**DR.
STRANGE!**

HE MUST HAVE
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THOSE
...*MONSTERS*
THAT JUST TORE
THRU HERE!

AND SO, THE AGE-OLD
PATTERN REPEATS ITSELF!

WRACKED BY *FEAR*...
STUNNED BY THE TIME-
TORN *TERRORS* THEY
HAVE WITNESSED...

A *MULTITUDE*
BECAME A *MOB*...
FILLED WITH
UNTHINKING
HATRED OF THE
UNFAMILIAR!

AND, IN MY
ANGER... I
BLURTED OUT
MY *NAME*
BEFORE
THEM!

YET THIS IS
SCARCELY
THE TIME
FOR--

TIME!!

IT WAS *TIME*
ITSELF WHICH
MENACED
THESE THROGS.
ONLY *MOMENTS*
AGO...

TIME...
CONTROLLED
BY THE FEARFUL
PHANTOM CALLED
NIGHTMARE...

...THAT TURNED A
NEW YEAR'S
REVELRY INTO
THE MADDENED
FRENZY CALLED
PANIC...

AS LONG-DEAD
BEHEMOTHS
STALKED THRU
THE VERY HEART
OF *TIMES*
SQUARE!

A full-page comic book illustration depicting a scene of intense destruction. In the upper half, a massive, green, multi-eyed monster with a jagged, dinosaur-like head is shown in profile, roaring. A man in a long orange robe and dark boots is leaping through the air, holding a glowing orb. Below him, a man in a brown coat is running. The ground is a mix of red and orange, suggesting fire or lava. In the background, a city with pinkish buildings is visible, with some structures appearing damaged. The lower half of the image shows a close-up of a warrior in a purple and silver helmet with a visor, looking forward with a determined expression. To his left, the face of an older man with a long white beard is partially visible. The overall style is classic comic book art with bold lines and a rich color palette.

"I SEE THEM STILL...THEIR GREAT BULKS MAGNIFIED BY THE RAMPANT POWER OF NIGHTMARE..."

"...BEHOLD IN MY MIND'S EYE THE PURPOSELESS DESTRUCTION THEY WROUGHT... MATCHED ONLY BY THE HYSTERIA OF A TERRIFIED CITY...!"

"AND THEN... THERE WERE THE OTHERS..."

"FIERCE-EYED WARRIORS FROM EVERY EON... HURLED INTO THIS CENTURY BY POWERS THEY COULD NOT COMPREHEND... AND LASHING OUT AT ALL WHO STOOD IN THEIR WAY..."



AND, THOSE
NOW-VANISHED
THREATS
WERE BUT THE
BEGINNING!

FOR, WITH THE
TIMELESS ONE
CALLED
ETERNITY AS
HIS HELPLESS
PRISONER...*

NIGHTMARE
MAY PICK AND
CHOOSE FROM A
MILLION
YESTERDAYS...
AND COUNTLESS
TOMORROWS...

"...FROM AMONG
THE SAVAGE, NAME-
LESS PRIMITIVES
WHO CALLED OUR
PLANET THEIRS
BEFORE THE DAWN
OF HISTORY..."

"...FROM THE DREADED
STELLAR
TROOPS OF A FAR-FLUNG
FUTURE..."

"OR THE
MEN-AT-ARMS
OF A THOUSAND
WORLD-
CONQUERORS!"

"NIGHT-
MARE
MUST BE
STOPPED!"

*AS SEEN
IN OUR
PREVIOUS
ISSUE!
--STAN,

BUT, HOW TO HALT HIM FROM OVERTHROWING REALITY??

ONLY THAT MAY CONCERN ME NOW!

I'LL WORRY ABOUT MY PRECIOUS SECRET IDENTITY LATER!

...IF THERE IS A LATER...FOR ANY OF US!

...CLEA DIDN'T REMAIN WHERE I LEFT HER WHEN THE TIME-BEASTS APPEARED!

THEN, SHE MUST HAVE RETURNED HERE... TO HER APARTMENT!

ARE WE GONNA LET THAT WEIRDO WALK OFF?

WHY STOP HIM? HE'S DONE NOTHING...!

YOU SURE, LADY?

WE'LL REMEMBER THAT NAME-- DR. STRANGE!

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I NEED HER BESIDE ME!

BUT I DON'T WANT HER TO KNOW YET...

THAT I MAY BE WALKING MY LAST HOUR ON EARTH!

STEPHEN... MY DARLING...

SOMEHOW...I KNEW YOU'D BE SAFE!

SO, I CAME HOME TO CHANGE... AND WAIT FOR YOU!

IN A THOUSAND THOUSAND DIMENSIONS, CLEA...

THE ONE CONSTANT IS THE CREATURE CALLED WOMAN!

AND NOW, IF YOU'D CARE FOR A STROLL...?

YOUR MANNER IS LIGHT, STEPHEN!

BUT I SENSE BEHIND YOUR WORDS, A GRAVENESS...

...AS IF THEY MASKED SOME SECRET DANGER YOU WOULD KEEP FROM ME!

LET US... GO, MY LOVE!

...I'M NOT SOME EARTHLY SCHOOLGIRL, STEPHEN... TO BE FRIGHTENED BY TALES OF THE BOGEY MAN!

WE FIRST MET WHEN I HELPED YOU AGAINST THE DREAD DORMAMMU HIMSELF!

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

I'M NOT LIKELY TO FORGET THAT, CLEA!

YOU'VE FACED PERILS WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE FEW PEOPLE SUSPECT!

THEN, DON'T TRY TO SHIELD ME, MY DARLING!

KAF

I HEARD YOU SPEAK OF ONE CALLED... NIGHTMARE!

CLEA... I...

IS IT HE...WHOSE NAME WAS WHISPERED ON THE WINDS BETWEEN THE WORLDS?

LOOKIT THAT SOCIETY TYPE...ALL DECKED OUT IN A CAPE, YET!

WATCH ME PART HIS CURLS WITH A SNOWBALL!

A FIVER SAYS YOU BUST OUT, SAM!

usen

BASKETS

I'LL TAKE THAT IN SINGLES, PAL!

WATCH ME!

AGAIN THE IDLE CHATTER OF WITLESS MORTALS...!



LET ME TEACH HIM TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, STEPHEN!

ONE SEARING COSMIC BOLT SHOULD--

NO, CLEA!
YOUR CURE MIGHT PROVE WORSE THAN HIS DISEASE!



BESIDES, THERE IS A GENTLER WAY... A SURER WAY...



WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS...

THE EVER-HELPFUL HOSTS OF HOGGOTH...

AND THE SIMPLEST OF MYSTIC PASSES!



SAM, BABY... WHAT'D THEY DO TO YA?

EITHER MANDRAKE THERE JUST ZAPPED YOU INTO A SNOWMAN...

OR WE BOTH BEEN OUT PARTYIN' TOO LONG!

...WHICH IS PRECISELY WHAT THEY'LL BOTH BELIEVE...

WHEN MY SPELL WEARS OFF IN A FEW SECONDS!

YOU WERE RIGHT, STEPHEN!

YOUR WAY WAS BETTER!

YES... THE BETTER TO DIVERT HER ATTENTION...

TO SPARE HER THE PAIN OF KNOWLEDGE ... FOR A FEW FLEETING MOMENTS....

"BUT
NO
LONGER!

EVEN AS WE
ARRIVE AT MY
DWELLING...

MY HOUR HAS
ELAPSED...THE
TIME ALLOTTED
ME BY
NIGHTMARE!

IF I
DELAY
OUR
MEETING...

HE'LL UNLEASH
ANew HIS
FEARFUL
HORDES!

THE
MASTER'S
RING!

HE RETURNS
EARLY
FROM HIS
REVELS!

TOO
EARLY...
FOR IT TO
BODE ANY
GOOD!

AND THEN,
IT MIGHT BE...
TOO LATE!

MASTER...YOU
LEFT, EARLIER,
AGLOW WITH
SMILES!

NOW, YOU
SEEM GRIMMER
THAN I HAVE EVER
KNOWN YOU...!

THE
WORLD
IS A GRIM
BURDEN,
WONG!

THEN...
YOU HAVE
GUESSED,
MY LOVE!

IT'S JUST
AS WELL!

FOR, I DARE NOT
LINGER OVER
EXPLANATIONS...

BUT, FOR SOME,
EVEN A SINGLE
SPOKEN NAME
MAY BE WORDS
ENOUGH...

...OR THE
WORDS WHICH
LOVERS SHARE
AT PARTING!

CLEA...!

THEN, WHEN A MASSIVE OAKEN DOOR
HAS CLOSED BEHIND THE MYSTIC MASTER...

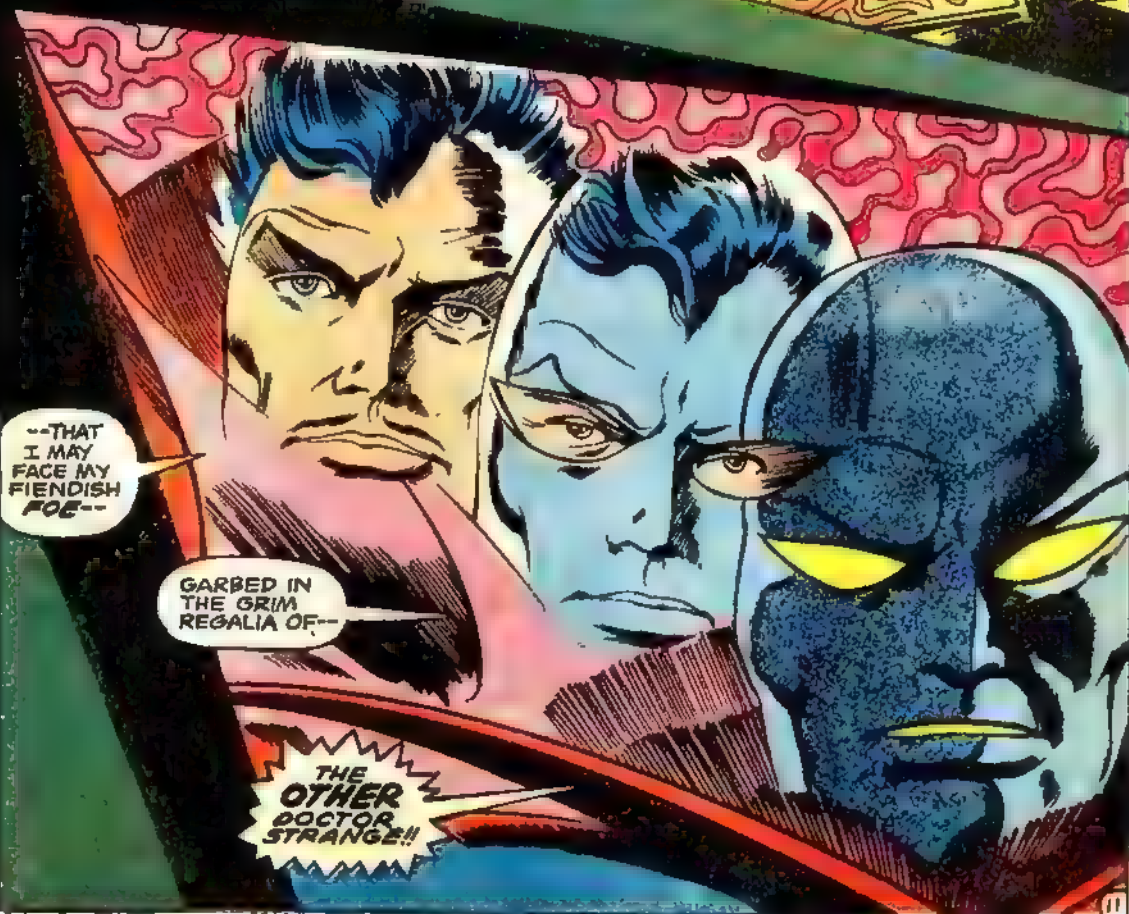
IT IS BEST
THEY DO NOT
SEE ME NOW...

DO NOT
WITNESS MY
HESITATION...

FOR NOW,
IT IS TIME
TO CAST A
MAGICAL
COUNTER-
SPELL--

TO UNDO THE INCANTATION
WHICH HID MY OCCULT
TRAPPINGS--

THE NAGGING
UNCERTAINTY
WRITTEN
LARGE UPON
MY BROW!



--THAT
I MAY
FACE MY
FIENDISH
FOE--

GARBED IN
THE GRIM
REGALIA OF--

THE
OTHER
DOCTOR
STRANGE!!

IT IS
DONE!

NOW, I SHALL SEND MY ASTRAL
BODY INTO THE DREAM DIMENSION,
AS I HAVE DONE BEFO--

OSHTUR
PRESERVE ME!

I FEEL
SUDDENLY
DROWZY...
FAINT...!

THE VERY
CHAMBER
SEEMS TO
SPIN
ABOUT ME...

AS IF
SMITTEN
BY THE
WHIRLING
WINDS OF
WATOOMB
THEMSELVES!

THIS CAN
ONLY BE
THE WORK
OF--

NIGHT-
MARE!

THEN, IN THAT SAME SEARING
INSTANT, THE MORTAL
MYSTIC SEES THE EARTHLY
ARTIFACTS ABOUT HIM
FADE FROM VIEW...FEELS
HIMSELF WRENCHED
ABRUPTLY, INEXORABLY,
INTO--

THE
DREAM
DIMENSION!!

EVER NEW--
EVER
CHANGING--
EVER
MENACING!

A KALEIDOSCOPIC
COSMOS FILLED
WITH SHIFTING
SHAPES AND
COLORS--

BEYOND
EVEN THE
IMAGININGS
OF A FREUD--
A DALI--A
KANDINSKY!

OFTEN BEFORE,
I HAVE BRAVED ITS
TERRORS--BUT
ALWAYS IN MY
ASTRAL FORM!

WILL I PROVE
WEAKER--MORE
VULNERABLE--
WHEN I FACE
THEM IN THE
FLESH?

BUT--NO! I MUST NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO CONSIDER DEFEAT...

WAIT!

BEFORE ME--THE MACABRE MINIONS OF NIGHTMARE!

NOT WHILE THE FATE OF A UNIVERSE RESTS UPON--

YOU CALL US MINIONS...

YET NIGHTMARE HIMSELF COULD DESTROY YOU NO MORE SURELY--

THAN A SINGLE SCRATCH FROM OUR LETHAL FANGS!

THESE, THEN, ARE THE VENOMOUS DEMONS OF DESPAIR...

UNLEASHED UPON ME IN MY MOMENT OF INDECISION!

THEIR MEREST BITE MEANS DEATH!

MUST HOLD THEM BACK--

TILL I CAN RECITE A LONG-FORGOTTEN SPELL!

FROM THEIR BITTER, BLAZING LAND-- MAY THE FALTIME RAISE THEIR HAND--

MAY THEIR FLAMES NOW LEAP AND HISS--



--OPEN
WIDE A
GREAT
ABYSS!!

A CHASM--
YAWNING
BENEATH
OUR VERY
FEET!

SAVE US,
NIGHTMARE!

SAVE
US!!...



THEY ARE GONE--
TO A DARKSOME
DOOM!

BUT NOW, I HEAR
MONSTROUS,
MOCKING
LAUGHTER--

GROWING
LOUDER--
FILLING
THE ETHER
ITSELF TO
OVERFLOWING--!

IT IS--
NIGHTMARE!

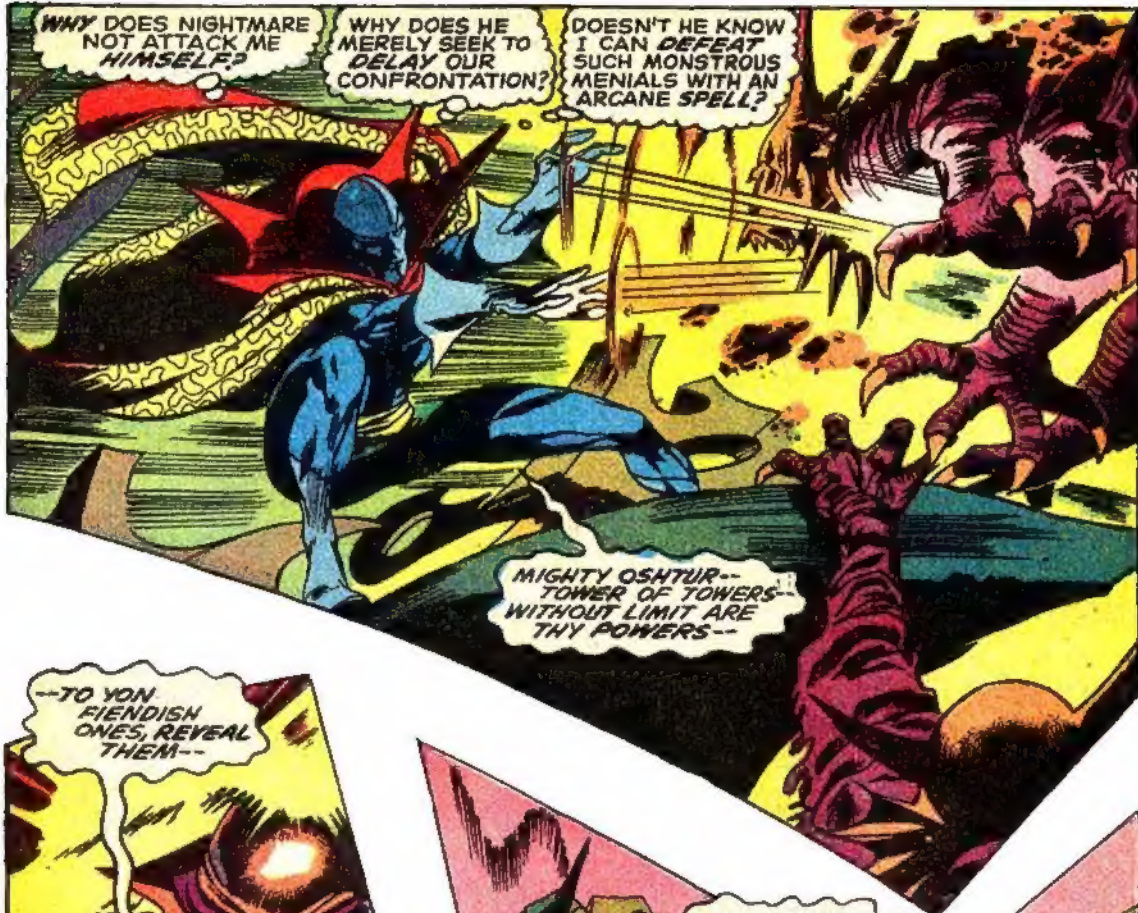


YES,
STEPHEN
STRANGE...

BUT, *BEFORE* YOU
MAY EARN THE
PRICELESS
PRIVILEGE OF
BATTLING WITH ME
FOR YOUR LIFE--

YOU MUST
FACE THESE
OTHERS
OF MY
LOATHSOME
LEGIONS!

BY THE
VIPERS
OF
VALTORR!



WHY DOES NIGHTMARE
NOT ATTACK ME
HIMSELF?

WHY DOES HE
MERELY SEEK TO
DELAY OUR
CONFRONTATION?

DOESN'T HE KNOW
I CAN DEFEAT
SUCH MONSTROUS
MENIALS WITH AN
ARCANE SPELL?

MIGHTY OSHTUR--
TOWER OF TOWERS--
WITHOUT LIMIT ARE
THY POWERS--



--TO YON
FIENDISH
ONES, REVEAL
THEM--



--INTO ONE
MASS NOW...
CONGEAL
THEM!

YOUR
MINDLESS
MERCENARIES
ARE NO MORE,
NIGHTMARE!

NOW, THE
HOUR IS COME
FOR OUR
RECKONING!

OR DO YOU
FEAR A
MERE
MORTAL??

I FEAR
NO ONE!

LEAST OF
ALL, ONE
WHO IS
MORTAL!

WHY
DO YOU
HESITATE,
FOOL?

NO
MATTER!

WHAT
CONCERNS
ME IS HIS
FREEING!

MUST
DEFEAT
NIGHTMARE...
AS I HAVE
IN THE PAST!

IT
WORKED!

BEHIND
NIGHTMARE...
I CAN SEE THE
GREAT FORM
OF ETERNITY!

WHY DOES
HE STAND SO
SILENT...SO GRIM
...IN MY FOE'S
BONDAGE...

HE TO WHOM THE
MOUNTAINS
ARE BUT THE
FRAIL CREATURES
OF A MOMENT?

AWAKEN
O MYSTIC
EYE OF
AGAMOTTO!

LET THE DARK
ONE AGAIN FEEL
YOUR STING OF
TRUTH AND
LIGHT!

I GOADED
THE EVIL
ONE INTO
APPEARING!

OR DOES
HE MERELY
WISH IT TO
SEEM SO--
TO CATCH
ME UN-
AWARES?

I FEEL THE
EYE'S AWESOME
GLARE,
SORCERER...

BUT THIS TIME
YOU SHALL HAVE
A RUDE
AWAKENING!



"OBSERVE, MYSTIC,
HOW I FACE THE
SACRED, STARING
EYE...THAT SAME
DREAD ORB
WHICH HAS ALWAYS
BEEN MY BANE!"

"SEE HOW MY
OWN GRIM STARE
MEETS IT...COVERS
IT OVER WITH A
SICKLY, EMERALD-
HUED FILM...!"

AND
NOW--

ME!!

NIGHTMARE
HAS LEARNED
SOME COUNTER-
SPELL AGAINST
THE EYE!

IT'S TURNING
AWAY FROM
HIM--TURNING
TOWARDS--

AND I HAVE NO
DEFENSE
AGAINST IT--

NONE!



CORRECT,
MORTAL...FOR
ONLY I MYSELF
CAN NEGATE MY
COUNTERSPELL!

I--NIGHTMARE--
HE TO WHOM THE
VERY WORD PITY
IS A SOUND MOST
HATEFUL!



HOW IRONIC,
THAT YOU SHOULD
BE VANQUISHED
BY YOUR OWN
WEAPON...

THE VERY ONE
WHICH ENABLED YOU
TO TRIUMPH OVER
ME IN THE PAST!

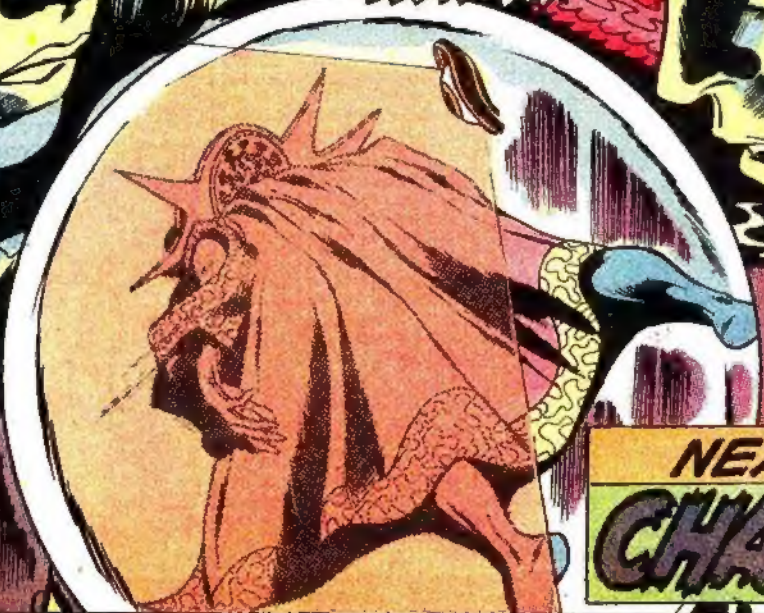
YET THAT IS
ONLY THE
BEGINNING--!



FOR YOU WERE
EVER THE SOLE
BARRIER TO MY
CONQUEST OF
AN UNSUSPECTING
EARTH...



AND NOW--THAT
BARRIER IS
NO MORE!!



NEXT:

CHAOS!